(ii) Majority of underground mines are old extensive and worked manually.

(iii) Many underground mines are having geo-mining problems like steep and multiple seams, occurance of fires and water logged old workings in adjoining areas prevailing in general are very difficult.

(iv) A sizeable proportion of the coking coal being now produced is not of quality which is acceptable to the steel plants and as such is not being washed.

(v) Most of the existing washeries are old and were originally designed to wash coking coals of better varieties. These washeries are not able to deal with effectively the coals presently being produced.

(e) Major steps taken to augment availability of raw coking coal and to improve quality of clean coal are:

(i) Increasing raw coal feed to washeries by supply of low volatile medium coking coal of suitable quality,

(ii) modifications of the existing washeries to improve capacity utilisation and improve quality of washed coal.

(iii) increasing raw coal availability by re-organising existing mines and development of new mines and

(iv) early commissioning of two new washeries under construction at Madhuband (BCCL) and Kedla (CCL).

Modernisation of CIL Units

102. DR. BAPU KALDATE:
SHRI SATYA PRAKASH MALAVIYA:

Will the Minister of COAL be pleased to state in what manner Coal India Ltd. propose to finance the purchase of major equipments for replacement/expansion of old equipments used in coal mines?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COAL (SHRI JAGDISH TYTLER): CIL has proposed to finance the purchase of major equipments for replacement by internal resources and commercial borrowings from domestic and/or external sources.

Diversification of activities by MMTC

103. SHRI RAHASBIHARI BARIK: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the MMTC increased its areas of operation and diversified its activities;

(b) if so, the areas in which MMTC has expanded its activities;

(c) the results thereof since then; and

(d) the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) MMTC has consolidated its business in minerals, metals, fertilisers, diamonds and gems and jewellery. It has diversified into agro products, marine products, textiles leather, drugs, chemicals & pharmaceuticals.

(c) and (d) Due to consolidation and diversification measures initiated by MMTC, MMTC's turnover has increased from Rs. 3,217 crores in 1993-94 to Rs. 5,262 crores in 1994-95.

Reduction of duty of non coking coal

104. SHRI SATYA PRAKASH MALAVIYA:
DR. BAPU KALDATE:

Will the Minister of COAL be pleased to state:

(a) whether reduction in duty of non coking coal in 1994-95 has shown any substantial increase in import;